

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Application No. 10826475 (Docket: CNTR.2223)
37 CFR 1.111 Amendment dated 03/07/2008
Reply to Office Action of 12/11/2007

MAR 07 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the section entitled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" in its entirety and substitute the following section therefor:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for performing cryptographic operations on a plurality of input data blocks within a microprocessor, where the size of the cryptographic key that is employed is programmable. In one embodiment, an apparatus for performing cryptographic operations is provided. The apparatus includes fetch logic and execution logic. The fetch logic is disposed within a microprocessor, and receives a cryptographic instruction single atomic cryptographic instruction as part of an instruction flow executing on the microprocessor. The cryptographic instruction single atomic cryptographic instruction prescribes one of the cryptographic operations, and also one of a plurality of cryptographic key sizes. The execution logic disposed within the microprocessor and is operatively coupled to the cryptographic instruction single atomic cryptographic instruction. The execution logic executes the one of the cryptographic operations. The execution logic has a cryptographic key size controller that employs the one of a plurality of cryptographic key sizes during execution of the one of the cryptographic operations.